

REMARKS

Claims 13-21 had been in the application. Claims 13, 18, 19 and 21 are amended and new claim 22 is added.

Basis for the amendment to claim 13 is found from page 4 line 27 to page 5 line 2.

Applicants appreciate the examiner's finding that the subject matter of former claims 17-19 and 21 is patentable. New claim 22 contains all the limitations of former claim 17 written in independent form. Claims 18, 19 and 21 have been made dependent from new claim 22 making claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 allowable. No new matter has been added.

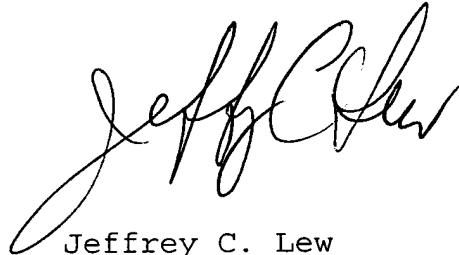
Claims 13-16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Rodway et al. WO 01/69610 ("Rodway"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to currently amended claim 13 the novel method calls for the first adhesion resistant layer to comprise polyvinylidene fluoropolymer ("PVDF"). Rodway discloses a method of making a wire insulation having a primary jacket ("PJ") layer of fluoropolymer bonded to a core layer of polyolefin by radiation-induced cross-links in the polymers, some of which are in the region of the interface between the two materials. However, Rodway repeatedly and consistently excludes PVDF polymers from the range of fluoropolymers. See for example page 1, lines 23-28, page 2, lines 2-3, page 3, lines 9-10, page 4, lines 3-9, etc. Rodway only permits use of vinylidene fluoride as a comonomer in terpolymers with tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene provided that vinylidene fluoride constitutes at most 50 wt.% of the copolymer (page 4, lines 4-9). Thus Rodway very strongly suggests away from incorporating PVDF in the PJ layer bonded by this method to the core layer.

Consequently, the invention defined by claim 13 would not have been obvious over Rodway. Dependent claims 14-17 and 20 being narrower than claim 13 are therefore also non-obvious over Rodway by virtue of dependency.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants urge that claims 13-22 are in condition for allowance at this time and earnestly solicit a favorable next office action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Lew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent and the last name "Lew" following in a similar style.

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